He had hoped that the services of Mr. A. Gopala Menon who had been sent on State expense to study banking and commerce would on his return be utilised in furtherance of commerce and banking. The fear then expressed that Mr. Gopala Menon might be retained in the college itself had proved true.

The Member then referred to the vexatious demands of the Income Tax Department, and to the case of a merchant in Chalai who was assessed to income tax though his liabilities were reported to be forty to fifty thousand rupees and who since then applied for being declared insolvent.

There was no union among the merchants themselves. The assistance of the Government was necessary and the formation of a department of commerce would be a boon. The merchants had to rely on European agents for their export trade. Strangers came into the country and were given big contracts without any enquiry into their status or antecedents.

The Member also referred to what he had said at the twentieth session of the Assembly about agricultural and commercial loans, the Cochin Harbour Scheme, State-aided bank, and the extension of the railway to Nagercoil. He had also urged the need for starting suitable factory industries by the Government after duly satisfying themselves as to their financial success. He had mentioned the delay in payment of contractor's bills, particularly in Trivandrum where they had been obliged to wait for years to get their money. He said he had with him petitions from thirty-two contractors. The grievances of the contractors should be redressed and due publicity should always be given when tenders were invited.

It was necessary to help indigenous banking concerns against whom unfortunately some sort of prejudice existed. It was hoped that the State-aided bank would come into operation soon, and that no efforts would be spared to make it a thoroughly useful and progressive institution and to entrust it to capable, efficient and honest hands.

The control of the joint stock companies being vested in the Director of Registration who had his own heavy legistimate duties, that officer could not find adequate time to guide and control them. There should be a sympathetic officer in intimate touch with these concerns and he should have statistics of their condition. The organisation of the trade of the country under the sympathetic advice of a department and freedom from petty exactions by the Revenue Department, Magistracy, Municipality, etc., were required more than anything else.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, you may rest assured that the Chief Engineer and I will look to the parlous state of the long suffering contractors.

2. Also, in the matter of joint stock companies, I shall give my personal attention to what you have to-day brought to my notice. But I cannot help remarking that the remedy in the case of these languishing companies lies mainly in the hands of the share-holders. In many a case of this kind, it is not right that the Government should move until they are moved. The State-aided bank will soon be at work and I hope it will be possible to place it in the arms, during its infancy, of some strong and experienced nurse. For the rest of your representations, I have listened with interest to your resuscitations and let me revivify Government's reply of two years ago. The fact that you based your remarks on certain broad principles is conclusive proof that those principles are as true to-day as they were two years ago.

55. Flood damages and restoration works in Nanjinad.

MR. CHEMPAKAKANNU PILLAI NAGARU PILLAI (*Member, Tovala taluk*) remarked that the restoration works to channel bunds and embankments of tanks executed by the Public Works Department were quite unsubstantial and as a result breaches occurred at the very same places during the succeeding rainy season. If such works were carried out under the supervision of the ryots interested in the

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restoration of the damaged channel bunds, etc., such breaches could be avoided. The Public Works Department should in carrying out the works at least associate with it a few ryots of the locality.

The Public Works Department were not attending to the necessary repairs and other works whenever necessary. As an instance he mentioned that the Pazhayar which drained the waters from several water-courses during the rainy season was getting silted up. There were also encroachments along its banks. It was the duty of the Public Works Department to see that the silt and mud-banks were removed as well as the encroachments along its banks. The easing of the bends in that river, the reduction of the area of some of the salt factories which were a source of hindrance to the waters in the Pazhayar flowing into the sea, the removal of the rock above Viranarayanamangalam which obstructed the course of the water and the provision of a cross-bar with falling shutters at that place were works which required early attention.

No irrigation tanks should be sold by auction in future and the existing tanks should be properly maintained.

Certain improvements to the Puttanar were necessary. In the rainy season the waters of the surrounding areas swelled the river into a high flood rendering the banks unsafe and causing breaches also here and there. It was therefore necessary that the Puttanar which was narrow from the Kotandaraman escape to the second mile should be widened and an escape where the water collected largely should be provided so as to divert the water to the Pazhayar. It was also necessary to strengthen and widen the banks of the Terakkal into which the waters from the Puttanar through the Vellamatam escape rushed.

Again, the waters from the forest area covered by three miles of the Tovala Channel from the 13th to the 16th mile could not find their way through the passages provided for the purpose. It was therefore suggested that a syphon might be constructed near Kadukara in the Tovala Channel.

The construction of a new escape for the flow of surplus water in the Virakeralappanerikulam was also a necessity.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nagaru Pillai, your first point that Government should transfer the construction of certain public works to the guidance and supervision of ryots is, I am afraid, far too drastic a change for the Government to accept at the present moment.

2. With regard to the Viranarayanamangalam rock and dam, action has already been taken and the work is proceeding.

3. Then you refer to the deepening of the existing tanks. The Public Works Department has already in hand the proper maintenance and putting in order of minor tanks. The question of major tanks is also receiving attention.

4. The matter in respect of constructing an outlet channel from Terakkal to the Pazhayar is already in hand; the N. P. channel has already been improved in the first ten miles.

5. The provision of a syphon near Kadukara in the Tovala Channel is, according to the best advice, not necessary.

6. For the flow of surplus water in the Virakeralappanerikulam the necessary works have been arranged for.

56. Public works in the Neyyattinkara taluk.

MR. M. KOCHUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) requested that the following works might be carried out:—

(i) A bridge and a culvert on the Uruttambalam-Malayinkizh trace should be constructed and the road rendered fit for cart traffic in 1102.

(ii) The works in respect of the Peyad-Vellanad trace, the Nemam-Uruttambalam trace and the Tachottukadavu trace should be completed and they should be made fit for use.

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